

In 1912 the Wasatch Trout Company purchased the hatchery and operated it until 1916 when John and William L. Van Wagoner bought the site and began regular marketing of fish to miners near Midway and Park City. George Van Wagoner and Bliss Titus cared for the plant.

The Van Wagoners operated the hatchery until 1921 when a private club, the Timpanogos Rod Club, under the direction of E. M. Bagley, president, purchased the property. The hatchery business was closed down and the streams used as fishing waters for club members only.

The State Fish and Game department leased the hatchery land in 1924 and began a long range program to improve the facilities. Cement runs, large ponds and streams and living facilities for those who operate the hatchery have been constructed. In 1939 Alma Durtschi and Angus Thacker patented a revolving screen to separate fish and keep them in their respective streams. In five months of operation the hatchery produced more than 5,000,000 trout annually for stocking rivers and lakes in the area. The fish are transported in special trucks to the Duchesne and Strawberry Rivers, Provo and south fork of the Provo River, Weber River, Wolf Creek, Deer Creek, Wanship Reservoir, Deer Creek Reservoir, Strawberry Lake, Moon Lake and a few of the Granddaddy lakes.

Though no records were kept, it is believed that the following have supervised the hatchery since 1909: Elmer Madsen, George Van Wagoner, Bliss Titus, Obrem Barrett, Henry Scheuller, Ben Butler, George Cox and David E. Wright. The hatchery is state owned and operated and is reported to be one of the largest and best hatcheries in the country.

## HOT POT RESORTS

Long before white men settled Midway the Ute Indians roamed the valley. They had seen and knew about the strange lime rock mounds and were mystified by the hot water and rising vapor. Mark Smith and Jesse McCarrell in 1859 were the first white men on record to explore the rock craters later known as the Hot Pots.

The larger group of hot pots were located in the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon and extend east from there about two miles. The water in these pots varies in temperature from seventy degrees to 112 degrees, and almost every spring the water is a different temperature. These waters are heavily impregnated with lime and some of the cone shaped pots have sealed themselves shut. Due to their heat and the lime and mineral deposits, these pools have been used and advertised as health pools.

The following is taken from "S. H. Epperson, Pioneer," a journal written by Simon S. Epperson: "The hot pots are mostly cone shaped and of many different sizes, about twenty of them are filled with water which ran over the top. Some are fifteen feet in depth and some appear to be bottomless. The cone of the largest is two hundred feet in diameter and one hundred feet high. They are formed by the constant flow of the lime water. A weight was lowered in the large cone, and no bottom was



The Big Hot Pot at Midway. The "pot" was formed as boiling lime water bubbled over the edge. The bottom of the pool of boiling water has not been found, though many have tried. The water from the pot is now used in pools at the Homestead resort.

found at one hundred and fifty feet." Of the big pot it has been said that water used to run over the top in the spring of the year and down the sides onto the fields.

"In one of the dry craters," continued the Journal, "called Snake Creek Den, between four and five hundred rattlesnakes were killed in a single day. In the spring they appeared on the outside of the crater and formed into groups that would fill a bushel basket. They would tie themselves into knots with their heads sticking out in all directions for protection. The country around these pots is apparently hollow as indicated by sounds caused by rumbling wheels passing over it."

These pots were taken up as homestead grounds in 1875, by Samuel Thompson, Tom Mantle and Hyrum Shelton. On March 10, 1888 Andrew Luke and John Busby purchased the pots for \$600 and renamed the area Luke's Hot Pots.

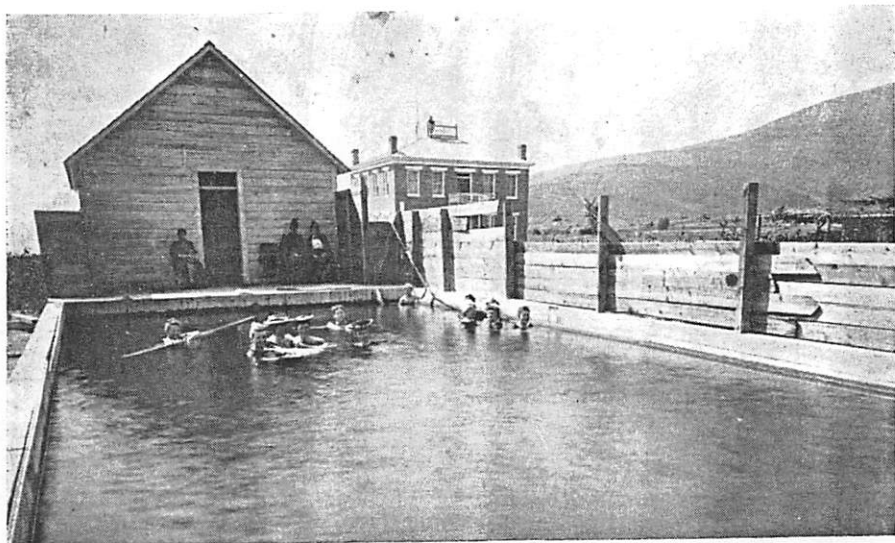
Originally, Luke's Hot Pots was paid for with an Indian saddle horse and a secondhand sewing machine. It later sold for more than \$100,000.

In 1878 Simon Schneitter bought from Samuel Thompson, and with a few chickens and cows started to farm his ground. When Park City

was developed into a mining town and Provo was settled, people heard of the hot pots and would go to Schnetter's in their wagons to see these unusual craters. This started Mr. Schnetter thinking about a resort. In 1886 a two story brick hotel and a swimming pool were started. The hotel, still in use, was then known as "The Virginia House." A hole was drilled at the base of the large hot pot and the water was piped to the pool. "Schnetter's Hot Pots" were known throughout the entire mountain area. The most discriminating people praised the wonderful food prepared under the direction of Mrs. Fannie Schnetter. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schnetter were noted for their warmth and hospitality. Thousands of people thronged to the resort throughout the year.

The resort was then either leased or rented to Thomas Monks before Jacob Schnetter bought it from his father. Frank Monks writes of his father's operation:

"Father ran the resort for some seven years and as I remember the conversation in those early days, they drew crowds then creating horse races. Some bathing helped to hold interest too. They had the two enclosed swimming pools constructed entirely of lumber. One was smaller than the other and furnished the participating swimmers a rather hot bath, as it was much warmer than the larger one. The two story brick building which seemed to be the outstanding building in those days was equipped to sleep the guests. There were twelve rooms. In connection with this they had a lumber dining room of fair size, and a kitchen. Monk's fried chicken was very well known in Salt Lake City and other nearby towns. The horse and buggy was the means of transportation so their



A very early picture of Schnetter's Hot Pots resort, now The Homestead, showing the swimming pool and bathhouse.

trade extended to a rather small area. They served regular meals and home-made ice cream and cake. When they needed music, it was furnished by a brass band led by Mr. Robert Krebs, who lived nearby."

Following Tom Monk's operation the resort was taken over by W. W. Ritter and Peter Kurellor, known as Dutch Pete, who ran it for three or four years before the Schneitter family took over again.

David N. Murdock owned a resort at the mouth of Pine Canyon about 1894 or '95, called "The Warm Lands." From his journal we read:

"At this resort there was a big plunge bath, a smaller private bath, and eight good dressing rooms, a large dance hall and eating places. Also living quarters, kitchen, dining room and bedrooms. All were built under one big roof. However, the dance hall had windows to keep the dancers cool and comfortable. An orchestra was kept there during the summer months. Dances were held each week and on holidays. The grounds were prepared for ball games, horse races, croquet and other games, with swings and other play places for the youngsters. A 'bus' ran from Provo for special celebrations. Perhaps the biggest crowd came out to see a big balloon ascend, held on the 4th of July."

The balloon was filled by spreading the silk over a fire in an effort to catch the smoke and gases. On the particular day this mentions the silk of the balloon caught fire and of course failed in its attempt to become airborne.

The journal continues: "The place had nice lawns and trees, but a big bowery was built to accommodate the crowds that came to picnic."

There were more bath houses in the area, such as Fred Buhler's which was more centrally located and used by the townspeople as a place for baptisms. These baptisms were carried on for new members and also for those whose records were lost or destroyed. Sometimes this work was carried throughout the entire day. The water in this bath was very hot and was remembered by those using it for a long time. Fred Buhler, Jr., son of the original owner constructed the present bathhouse and built it further down the hill toward the road. The building that stands is larger and the water that feeds this pool had been cooled until now it is quite comfortable. The water was piped from the old bathhouse down to the new.

Still standing is the old Joseph Galli home and one-half mile to the west the tiny bathhouse where Mr. Galli and his wife would teach children of the community to swim. The patient couple were responsible for instructing many Midway youngsters in the sport, and the warm waters of their spring-fed pool became a delightful playground for local boys and girls.

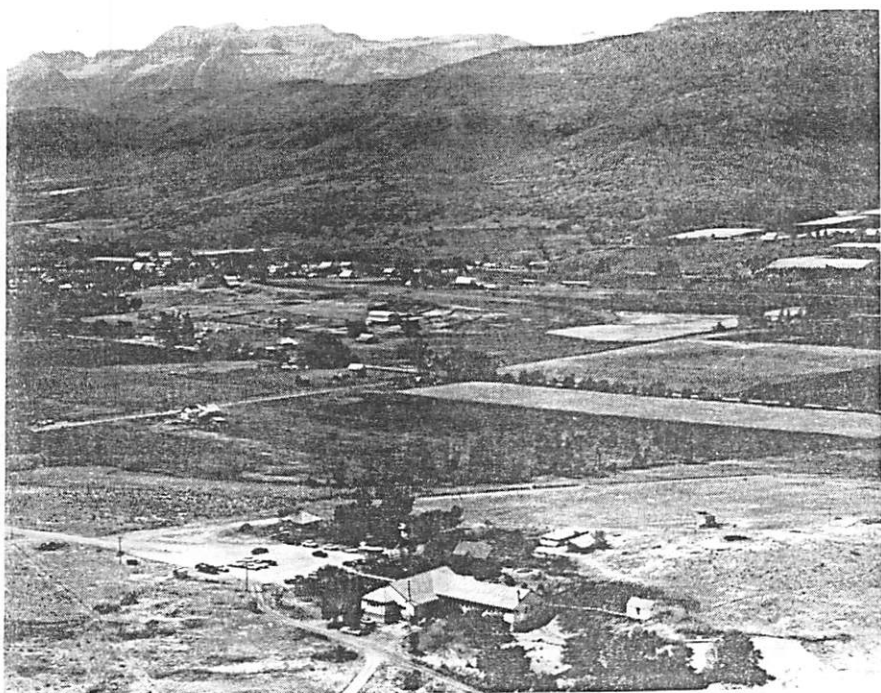
In 1947 Luke's Hot Pots was sold to Joe B. Erwin for \$100,000. Erwin was one of the first to envision Heber Valley as a national resort area, drawing thousands of visitors and greatly benefiting the economy of Wasatch County. He added a new outside swimming pool to the

resort, but eventually his far-sighted plans went awry and five years after he purchased it, Luke's Hot Pots were once again in the hands of John Luke.

In 1953 Luke deeded his resort to Jay, Clyde and Charles DeGraff who made some improvements on the property. Until 1955, when it was deeded back to Mr. Luke, the resort was known as the Diamond D. Also in 1955 Luke transferred the property to his wife Alada, who sold it the following year to Harold Calder and Clifford W. Stubbs. Late in 1956 Calder transferred his interest to Stubbs. A year later Mr. Stubbs sold the resort to Dr. Willard Draper and Eugene Payne who promptly christened it the Mountain Spa.

Under the ownership of Draper and Payne great changes were made. The entire main building was renovated, a brick facade added and the roof completely tiled. Landscaping of the property was begun in earnest, the dining room was remodeled and new equipment added. Roller-skating on the huge dance floor became a popular pastime. A small but picturesque hotel was opened and renovated. Horses were brought in to create added interest at the resort.

In spite of the untimely death of Dr. Draper in 1958 the Mountain Spa continued to gain interest. Still owned and operated by Payne.



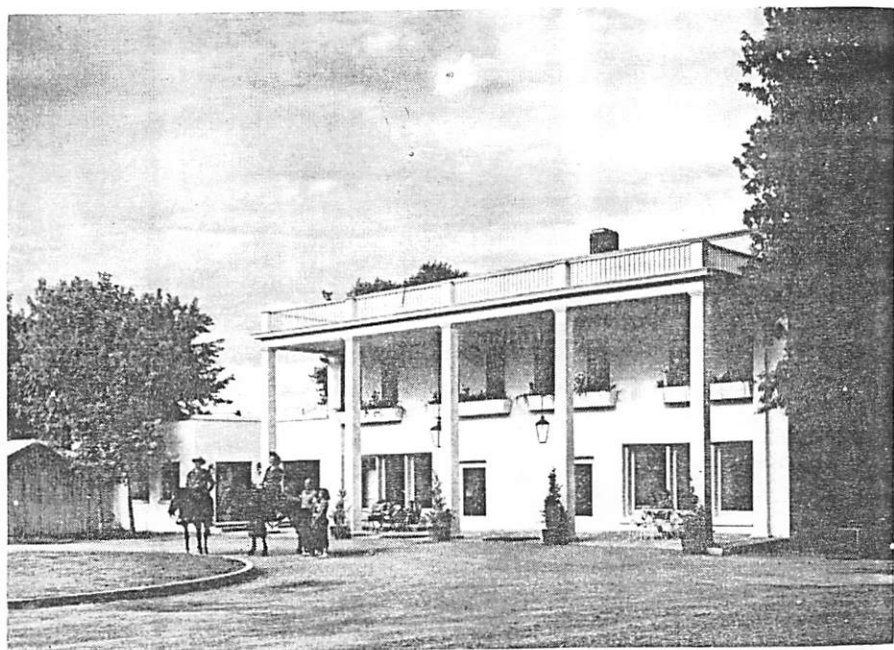
An aerial view of the Midway area with the Mt. Spa resort in the foreground. This is another of the county's popular resort spots.

it has become a popular spot for banquets, swimming and skating parties and future plans call for further expansion.

Schneitters Hot Pots became The Homestead early in 1952 when Ferrin W. Whitaker, his brothers Berlin and Scott and a son-in-law, Del Wallengren, moved to Midway from southern California to take ownership from the Schneitter family. A complete architectural face-lifting gave a new look to the main building. The east wall of the dining room was opened with windows looking out over the valley and kitchen facilities expanded when a new pantry was added. The lobby and fountain were redecorated and a wing furnished to house rest rooms and a check-in room for swimmers.

The old hotel was renovated as was a three-room milk house to the south, providing additional space for overnight guests. Since then the Ranch House and Farm House have been constructed bringing the total number of hotel rooms to 20.

Swimming, horseback riding, fishing in a stocked pond, shuffleboard and other lawn games were made available to visitors. Through continual enlarging, planting and landscaping, this new resort becomes a drawing card for the county. Chicken and steak dinners are still being served and the luster of this vacation spot remains undimmed through 80 years of resort business in Wasatch County. It is one of Utah's best resorts.



The nationally popular Homestead Resort at Midway